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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

KRISTIN K. MAYES
Chairman
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March 3, 2010

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords
US House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

As you know, Science Foundation of Arizona, in conjunction with Dr. John Waszczak, have formed an alliance to build an Arizona-based Small Business Innovation Research Program.

The primary goal of the SBIC will be to create a core capability within SFAz that will partner with Arizona's hi-tech clusters (ATC, AOIA, NanoTech, Solar Energy & BioTech) and our state's universities (the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University), to help small businesses effectively team with aerospace and defense prime contractors across the U.S. to achieve our small business growth and job creation goals.

We take note of the fact that so far, Arizona has been surpassed by other states in the amount of federal investment provided for SBIC efforts. Given Arizona's depressed economy, we believe it is more important than ever to help small businesses grow and prosper, in particular in those areas that hold much promise for sustained economic advancement.

We are also particularly interested in the prospect for an SBIC venture to make advances in the kinds of technologies that will balance our state's energy portfolio, including all forms of renewable energy. The Commission has worked for more than a decade on ways to ensure balanced fuel portfolios are adopted by the state's electric utilities, and we are supportive of efforts aimed at developing energy technologies that can help keep rates low and the provision of electricity reliable.

It is our hope that you do what is in your power to assist in Science Foundation of Arizona's efforts to advance Arizona's SBIC presence and thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Mayes".

Kris Mayes
Chairman

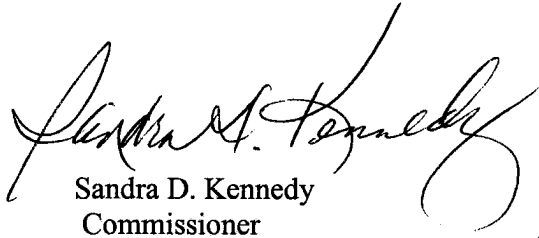
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Pierce".

Gary Pierce
Commissioner

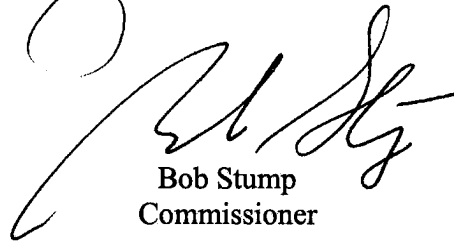
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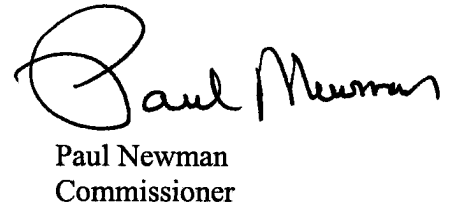
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Sandra D. Kennedy
Commissioner



Bob Stump
Commissioner



Paul Newman
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